## WARDEN MESSAGE

August 25, 2009

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This message is intended for the American community in Syria. If you have any questions, please contact the Consular Section at the above address. If you wish to be added to our e-mail distribution, we invite you to complete the registration process through our new registration website. To access the site please enter the following link address <a href="https://travel.state.gov">http://travel.state.gov</a> or directly, at <a href="https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs">https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs</a>

WARDENS: Transmission of the following announcement by telephone is mandatory.

## <u>WARDEN MESSAGE – Construction Activities Affecting Access to the Consular Section</u>

Major construction activities for the U.S. Embassy Physical Security Upgrade (PSU) project are planned sporadically for the next several days on Ata-Ayoubi Street (also known as the "Consular street") along the Embassy perimeter. Both Embassy employees and Americans requesting consular services are requested for safety reasons to avoid the Consular entrance starting from August 24<sup>th</sup>, until construction activities are complete. Visa applicants and other consular visitors will be redirected to avoid the construction zone. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic may also be limited by police personnel during this time to prevent accidents or injury.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs' website</u>. It contains current <u>Travel Warnings</u> <u>and Travel Alerts</u>, including the Travel Warning for Syria, as well as the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Americans living or traveling in Syria are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy in Damascus through the State Department's Internet-based registration website, <a href="www.travel.state.gov">www.travel.state.gov</a>, in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Syria. Americans in Syria without Internet access may register directly with the U.S. Embassy in Damascus.